Roll back of prices of Urea and Foodgrains

3283. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to roll back the prices of urea and foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether reconsideration is based on any pressure from some quarters;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The Government is not considering any proposal to roll back administered prices of urea and foodgrains as this decision was warranted from the point of view of fiscal substantiability.

Newsitem captioned Rs. 60,000 crore gone as markets crash

3284. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPALBASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item Rs. 60,000 cr. gone as markets crash which appeared in the Indian Express dated 5th April. 2000; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The news item was in the context of a fall of 361 points in BSE Sensex on 4th April, 2000. Price fluctuation on stock markets is a phenomenon which is influenced by multiple factors which include expectations of investors regarding performance of the corporate sector and the economy in general, perceptions of the investors about economic policies of the Government, developments in the international capital markets etc. The reported loss in market capitalisation due to such fluctuations is notional.

The fall or rise in prices of scrips in the stock markets cannot be controlled by the Government or the regulator. The objective of the Government and the regulator is to ensure that capital markets operate in an orderly, transparent, safe and fair manner. Towards this end, SEBI has intimated that several risk containment measures have been taken for the overall safety of the capital markets.

Government holdings in Banks

3285. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the Banks in which it would bring down its holding to 33 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that All India Bank Employees Association have warned of strikes over Government's move to cut stake to 33 per cent and if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is understood that the All India Bank Employees' Association has, by a circular, *inter-alia*, directed its union to observe general strike against privatisation of banks. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government for privatisation of banks. The intention is to enable banks to access capital from the market in view of the infeasibility of Government's indefinitely contributing to the equity of the banks in the face of competing claims for budgetary support.

Applicability of tax on export profit

3286. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tax on export profit will not apply to